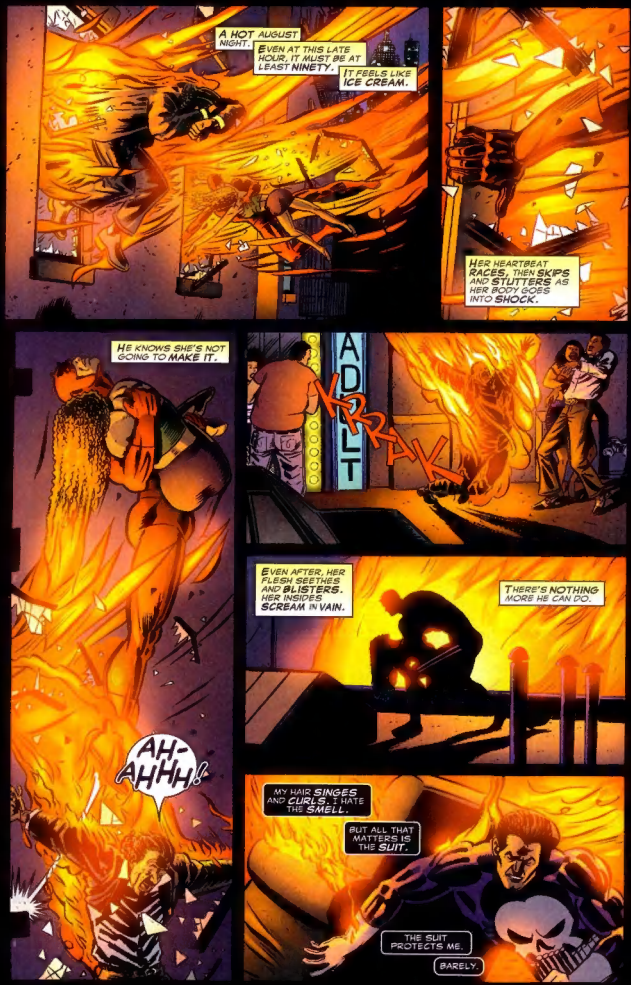
MARVEL
MK
3
DAREDEVIL VS PUNISHER
MEANS AND ENDS
DAVID LAPHAM
MARVEL
DIRECT EDITION
POTENTIAL ADVISORY
$2.99 US $4.25 CAN

He should have heard the man in the hall.
Picked up his heartbeat. smelled the gas fumes.
Now, it's too late.
Daredevil doesn't have time to curse himself.
The tiny room is engulfed in an instant.
Everything burns, pops and sizzles. Glass shatters.
Jimmy Sweets, the two-bit hit man who can bring down an empire, yells something even Daredevil's heightened senses can't pick up above the roar.
The hooker catches a face full of napalm. If she lives, her nightmare will have only just begun.
Daredevil knows he can't save them both.
He picks the girl.
The other one—the tough guy with the skull on his chest—is the Punisher. Daredevil never once considers him.
He can take care of himself.
Or not.

Daredevil Vs. Punisher No. 3, October, 2005. Published Miniseries except semi-monthly in September by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2005 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40666537. **Printed in the USA.** AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer; ALAN FINE, President & CEO Of Toy Biz and Marvel Publishing; DAN CARR, Director of Production; ELAINE CALLENDER, Director of Manufacturing; DAVID BOGART, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.


A HOT AUGUST NIGHT.
EVEN AT THIS LATE HOUR, IT MUST BE AT LEAST NINETY.
IT FEELS LIKE ICE CREAM.
HER HEARTBEAT RACES, THEN SKIPS AND STUTTERS AS HER BODY GOES INTO SHOCK.
HE KNOWS SHE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
ADULT
KRRRK
AH-AHHH
EVEN AFTER, HER FLESH SEETHES AND BLISTERS. HER INSIDES SCREAM IN VAIN.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE HE CAN DO.
MY HAIR SINGES AND CURLS. I HATE THE SMELL.
BUT ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE SUIT.
THE SUIT PROTECTS ME.
BARELY.

GO AHEAD. TRY FOR THE WINDOW.
I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T MAKE IT.
BUSHWACKER.
NEVER FACED HIM, BUT READ THE PROFILE. EX-CIA, PSYCHOTIC, OBSESSIVE. CAN TURN HIS RIGHT ARM INTO A GUN.
OR, APPARENTLY, A FLAMETHROWER.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU, FRANK. FROM AN OLD FRIEND.
NEVER BEEN MORE THAN A SECOND-RATER.
YOU CAN GUESS WHAT THE MESSAGE IS.
THE JACKAL. THE JACKAL SENT THIS IDIOT TO KILL ME?
I SHOULD TALK.
VICTORY, NOW!
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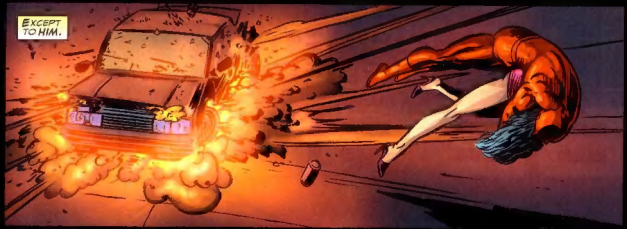
JET FUEL, FRANK...
...BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS.
NOW!
MOVE FAST!
OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW, FRANK.
NOT FAST ENOUGH.
NNNN...
JUST FAST ENOUGH.
NOBODY'S GONNA CRY FOR YOU, FRANK!
XXX
JIMMY SWEETS HOLDS ON TO LIFE LIKE A RABID ROTTWEILER.
DAREDEVIL KNOWS HE'LL HAVE TO GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.
AND LEAVE BUSHWACKER TO THE PUNISHER.
OR THE PUNISHER TO BUSHWACKER...
THERE'LL BE A CELEBRATION!
BIGGER THAN THE ROSE PARADE!

THOK
AHH!
He leaves a parting gift.
His second mistake of the night.
You shoulda stayed out of it. You were off the hook tonight, Devil.
BUDDA BUDDI
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
XXX
VIEW
It all goes to hell the instant bushwacker opens fire, bullets rip up the street, people panic, scream and run.
He tries to lead the fire away from them, but they scurry to and fro like trapped mice.
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
UNGH!
And just like mice, their lives aren't worth a dime.


EXCEPT TO HIM.

THE BULLET PASSED THROUGH CLEAN JUST ABOVE HER HIP MISSING ALL THE IMPORTANT PARTS.
SHE'LL LIVE IF DAREDEVIL CAN END THIS NOW.
HE'LL ONLY GET ONE SHOT.

POW
PING

I'M NOT A COMPLETE FOOL.
AFTER THE SUBWAY AMBUSH, I BROUGHT ALONG A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA.

AWW, MAN...

BOOM!
HEH.
I LIKE THIS MAN OF YOURS, PROFESSOR.
KNOWS HOW TO GET THINGS DONE.
THE BASTELLI RESIDENCE.
I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED AT JENNIFER'S PARTY. SUCKS PRETTY BAD.
ME AND GINA ARE GOING OUT. YOU WANNA COME?
THERE'LL BE LOTS OF HOT GIRLS...

HEY?!

HA HA HA...
SNIFF
MEN
TEE HEE

GIGGLE
OH, MY GOD...

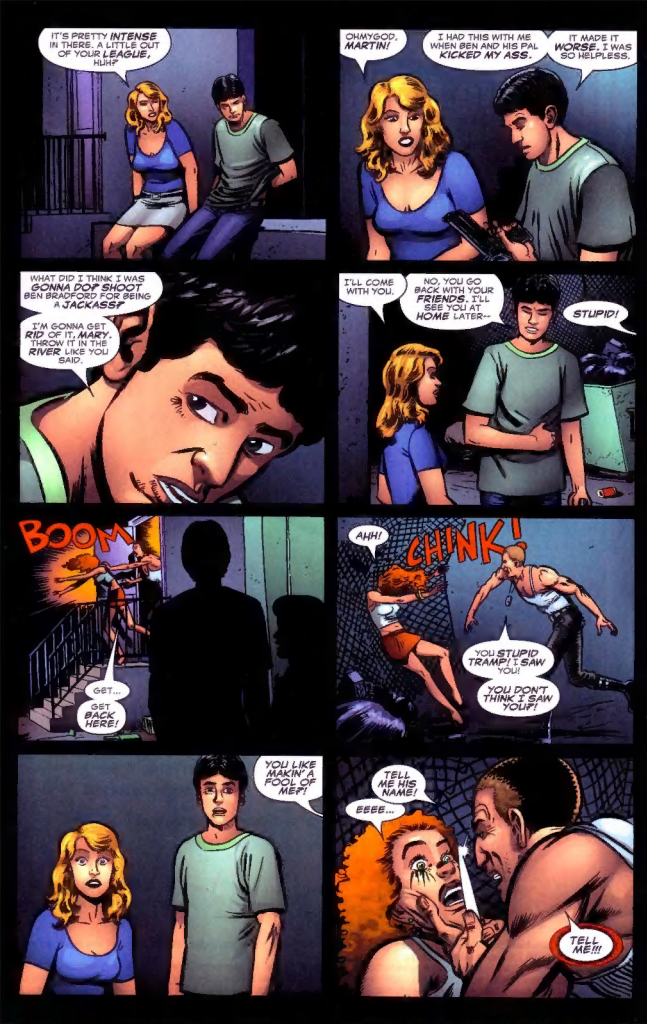
MEN

BOOM BOOM BOOM

?

EXIT

HEY.
HEY.
KIK


IT'S PRETTY INTENSE IN THERE. A LITTLE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE, HUH?
OHMYGOD, MARTIN!
I HAD THIS WITH ME WHEN BEN AND HIS PAL KICKED MY ASS.
IT MADE IT WORSE. I WAS SO HELPLESS.
WHAT DID I THINK I WAS GONNA DO? SHOOT BEN BRADFORD FOR BEING A JACKASS?
I'M GONNA GET RID OF IT, MARY. THROW IT IN THE RIVER LIKE YOU SAID.
I'LL COME WITH YOU.
NO, YOU GO BACK WITH YOUR FRIENDS. I'LL SEE YOU AT HOME LATER--
STUPID!
BOOM
GET... GET BACK HERE!
AHH!
CHINK!
YOU STUPID TRAMP! I SAW YOU!
YOU DON'T THINK I SAW YOU!?
YOU LIKE MAKIN' A FOOL OF ME?
TELL ME HIS NAME!
EEEE...
TELL ME!!!

HOLD IT, MISTER!
DROP THE KNIFE.
I'LL GET THE BOUNCER!
CHK-CHK
WHAT THE--?
HELP!
HELP!
DROP IT, MISTER, OR I SWEAR I'LL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT
MISTER? MISTER, MISTER THE DIRTY FISTER!
COME OFF IT, KID. WALK AWAY--
EEEEEEE!
AHH!
HEY!
BLAM!
WHOA! HEY! HEY!
"YOU--YOU COULDA SHOT ME!
THAT AIN'T RIGHT!
AIN'T RIGHT AT ALL!
NOW, RUN AWAY!
ARE YOU OKAY, MISS?
WHA'...? OH!-- UM...YEAH...UM... YEAH, MAN...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU. YOU NEED A...DOCTOR OR SOMETHING?
TEE HEE

YOU KNOW THAT GUY? MAYBE WE'D BETTER CALL THE COPS--OH!
MARTIN!
UH-OH...
TEE HEE... HEE HEE HEE HEE...
UH... I'M SORRY.
YAYYYYYY!
THAT WAS AWESOME.
THE BRAVEST THING I EVER SAW.
DID YOU SEE 'IM TEAR OFFF
I KNOW THAT GUY.
HE'S A JERK.
I THINK YOU EARNED YOURSELF A DRINK.
HA HA.
I'LL HOLD YOU TO THAT--
OH!
EXCUSE ME. SORRY-- OH!...
HI!
UM...HI.

DESPITE THIRD DEGREE BURNS OVER FORTY PERCENT OF HIS BODY, DESPITE SEVERE SHOCK AND TRAUMA.
DESPITE THE FACT HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO.
JIMMY SWEETS MADE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT.
THE INFORMATION IN HIS PSYCHOTIC, LITTLE MIND CAN BRING DOWN HAMMERHEAD'S EMPIRE BEFORE IT CAN EVEN GET OFF THE GROUND.
AN ARMED DETAIL OF A DOZEN OFFICERS GUARDS HIM AROUND THE CLOCK.
UNTIL HE'S MOVED UPSTATE, JIMMY SWEETS IS IN MORTAL DANGER.
AND HE WON'T BE MOVED UNTIL HE AGREES TO COOPERATE.
SIT ON IT AND ROTATE.
AND THAT WON'T HAPPEN UNTIL HE'S BEEN MADE THE PROPER OFFER.
OR UNTIL THE OFFER'S BEEN MADE IN THE PROPER WAY.
COME ON, SERGEANT. THIS IS POINTLESS.
CONSIDER OUR OFFER, JIMMY.
WE CAN PROTECT YOU.
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...YEAH, RIGHT.
PIGS...

SO DAMN ITCHY...
WHERE'S THAT NURSE? WHERE'S MY MEDS?
WHERE'S MY DAMN--
CLICK CLICK CLICK
HELLO, JIMMY.
WHO'S THAT?
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
I SAVED YOUR LIFE LAST NIGHT, JIMMY.
DON'T MAKE ME REGRET IT.
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUNDS, ABERDEEN, MARYLAND.
WHAT I DO CANNOT BE HELPED.

THESE ARE GOOD MEN.
WHEN THEY WAKE, THEY'LL FIND THEMSELVES IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE.
I REGRET IT, BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE.
NO MORE OR MADMAN HOLDING WHAT I NEED, NO TERRORIST CELLS WITH ONE I COULD APPROPRIATE LIKE LAST TIME.
THE ONE DAREDEVIL MADE SURE WAS WASTED.
AN HOUR. EVERY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE COUNTRY ON HIGH ALERT.
SECURITY HAVE
IN SIX HOURS THEY'LL REST EASY. IN SIX HOURS THEY'LL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH THEIR AMAZING BOMB.
IN SIX HOURS, THEY'LL UNDERSTAND WHY IT HAD TO BE DONE.
KRAK
BOOM
POP
POP

THE FIREWORKS ARE A LITTLE OBVIOUS.
KRAK
POP
BUT I LIKE IT.
ALMOST MAKES ME FEEL PATRIOTIC AGAIN.
I WONDER WHAT THE JACKAL MAKE
PROBABLY SOIL HIMSELF AGAIN.
BEEP BEEP
HE'S HERE.
HE'S BETTER THAN I'D HEARD. WASTES NO TIME.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
IT ALMOST ENDS RIGHT HERE.
I'M ARROGANT AND STUPID.
WHAT MAKES ME THINK I'M SO FAST?
SPAK SPAK
WHEN I HAVE THE BURNS TO REMIND ME I'M NOT.
I HATE RUNNING LIKE THIS.
STILL, THE LIGHT SHOW DID ITS JOB.
FOCUS.
FOCUS ON THE
FOR WEEKS I'VE LISTENED TO THE PROFESSOR GO ON AND ON ABOUT HOW GOOD YOU ARE.
I DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE PUNISHER. TAUGHT HIM THIS AND I TAUGHT HIM THAT...

BLAH, BLAH, WELL, CONGRATULATIONS. YOU GET [redacted] "A-PLUS" [redacted] TURNIN' TAIL 101.
I'LL ADMIT THE [redacted] WAS NICE, THOUGH. IF A LITTLE DETACHED. A LITTLE COWARDLY.
COME ON, FRANK. THIS CAT AND MOUSE GAME IS GETTING BORING.
I AGREE.
LET'S PUT [redacted] TO IT.
WHAT'RE YOU IF HIS MOMMY?
YOU SHOULDA STAYED OUT OF THIS, DEVIL.
BUDDA
I COULD CARE LESS WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO.
SIX PEOPLE DIED IN THAT FIRE.
PING
TING
DON'T WASTE YOUR BULLETS. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TAG ME.
UNF!
YOU KNOW WHY?
YOU'RE A LOSER, BUSHWACKER.
WUAK
AHNGH!

DODGE THIS, DEVIL.
TUNK!
CLANK
YOU'RE PATHETIC AND YOU BORE ME.
HEY?!
IT'S TIME TO JOIN YOUR PALS.
UNGH!
WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THAT IDIOT WILL KEEP DAREDEVIL OCCUPIED.
IT'S PROBABLY OVER ALREADY.
KEEP MOVING.
STICK TO THE PLAN.
ONCE I'M IN THE AIR IT WON'T MATTER.

STILL THE SAME LOSER TO HOLY-ROLLER TALK? NO MUTANT HATING? WHAT'S THE SHTICK THIS TIME?
S'FUNNY, Y'KNOW WHAT I FOUND OUT, DEVIL?
I SPENT ALL THAT TIME KILLING MUTANTS.
I AM A MUTANT.
THE AGENCY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MY ARM 'CEPT BRING OUT MY "NATURAL TALENTS."
AND IT'S NOT JUST MY RIGHT ARM.
UHH!
BLAM
TAG! YOU'RE IT.
NICE MOVE AT THE END THERE AVOIDIN' THE KILL SHOT.
I'LL HAVE TO PLACE IT JUST RIGHT.
THE OFFICE WORKERS HAVE GONE HOME.
A CALL WAS MADE GIVING THE CLEANING SERVICE THE NIGHT OFF.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS A BUILDING FULL OF EVIL MEN.

MY WHOLE BODY IS A WEAPON, DEVIL. I WAS BORN TO KILL.
THAT'S MY NEW "SHTICK" IF I'VE GOT ONE. KILLING. PURE AND SIMPLE. I LOVE IT LIKE A BAKER LOVES BREAD.
I HAD A WHOLE CRATE OF BULLETS FOR DINNER TONIGHT, DEVIL.
AND BOY AM I FULL!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BOOM BOOM
BUDDA BUD
BOO
WHOK
LIKE I SAID.
STILL THE SAME LOSER.

THEY SAY THE BUILDING'S TIGHTER THAN FORT KNOX.
I'M NOT EVEN SURE THIS'LL WORK.
GUESSED RIGHT. BARELY.
HOLE'S JUST BIG ENOUGH.
GUARDS WILL BE ON ME IN SECONDS.
THERE'LL BE AT LEAST TWENTY.
TINK
KLINK
UHHH... "GLUG"

IF I HAD A HAMMER, I'D HAMMER IN THE MORNING. I'D HAMMER IN THE EVENING--
"GLUG" "GLUG"
CH-CHH
UH-OH.
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE THE LITTLE MAN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOTTLE.
HAMMERHEAD, THE JACKAL. WHERE ARE THEY?
TH-THE JACKAL?
THE PROFESSOR!
TH-THEY'RE GONE. DAREDEVIL WAS HERE. TH-THIS AFTERNOON, HE BEAT UP EVERYONE!
JIMMY SWEETS TALKED! THE POLICE CAME AND ARRESTED THEM ALL. THEY'RE ALL IN JAIL.
'CEPT ME. I'M NEW HERE...
DAREDEVIL.
ALWAYS DAREDEVIL.
IDIOT.
MENACE.
HE HAS TO BE STOPPED.
TO BE CONTINUED...

UH-UH.
COME ON. IT'LL BE FUN.
THAT'S OKAY.
OH, STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF.
I'M NOT GONNA ASK AGAIN. IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT YOU TO COME OR ANYTHING.
PARADISO
DANCE CLUB
BOOM BOOM BOOM
DANCE! MEET PEOPLE! BUT NO DRINKING! AND NO DRUGS! I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO GET YOU IN HERE!
YOU GET ME IN HOT WATER WITH MOM AND DAD, I'LL KILL YOU. I SWEAR!
AHH!